

Sing swing Sinatra

Resorts showcases the past

It was a great feeling to walk into the Superstar Theater at Resorts for a matinee show and there was not a seat to be had. It has to do with the smart thinking of Dennis Gomes, CEO of Resorts and the ultra talents of a 19 year old named Brandon Tomasello. Throw in the name of late great Frank Sinatra and it's a win-win all the way around. The crowd was of the age when in their youth the music of Mr. Sinatra was who the women swooned over as young teens, it reminded the men what music they danced to on dates or what was playing on the radio. Brandon Tomasello has talent, plus the knowledge how to please an audience. Helping him with this endeavor is a friend of his also with musical smarts on pleasing an audience. Sometimes you have to think the breaks for success all fall in line thanks to many little coincidences. Tomasello grew up with his grandparents who had many Sinatra records. He listened to them so many times he knew the many numbers by heart. He seemed to get the rhythm of each note sang by Frank and kind of mimics them as he sang them himself. Tomasello went to the Philadelphia Performing Arts Charter School where by chance he became friends with Stephen Garbesi. Tomasello had the voice and Garbesi was into the technical side of the recording business. Garbesi set up a small recording studio and convinced his friend Tomasello to sing a song to kind of see how the equipment would work. The first song they worked on was "Fly Me to the Moon." From that chance recording it seems now between the two of them the sky is the limit in how far they can go. When they decided to go for an album of Sinatra music it opened all sorts of doors. As luck would have it Tomasello picked up a small show for a church in Brigantine thanks to Joe Donofrio of Brigantine who is a producer/manager. That led to a lounge act in the Whiskey Bar at Resorts where he caught the eye and ears of Dennis Gomes and now he does a show on the very same stage that Frank Sinatra stood on many years ago. All of which led to my being at the Superstar Showroom for the matinee performance on

Jan 11. The opening song was "All of Me" and for the next 70 minutes Tomasello and Garbesi gave all of their being for a spectacular performance of musical memories plus we got to see the rising of careers for two young entertainers on their way up. Garbesi handles the soundtrack, with Tomasello as vocals. Expect to hear many of the hits associated with the late Frank Sinatra as this is a tribute show, but there are other songs slipped in to keep you on your toes. There are a few props on stage, instruments that may lead you to believe either Tomasello or Garbesi has a hidden talent but nothing comes for a reason so I'll call them props to fill up the stage. The same can be said of the little bar set up. Then again it's the music and songs that will grab your attention. A few of the audience's favorite musical numbers were "Fly Me to the Moon," "You Make Me Feel So Young," "My Kind of Town," "That's Why the Lady is a Tramp," and, of course, "New York, New York." What was missing was "My Way," a few people expected that, myself included. We thought that would be the last song of the night. Maybe you could say always leave them wanting more. Just an interesting fact Tomasello would like to be able to form his own band. In the meantime, the two friends are enjoying how things have taken off for them both working together. Recently they formed their own company called FIMA Productions which is an entertainment company that combines music, film, photography plus Web Design, plus Stephen is also known as "DJ Beezy." With both being so young they are well on their way to taking the time for big dreams that I feel will come true. Show times will vary. If you are not willing to go out at night call the Resorts box office for matinee times. The show will be in the Superstar Theater until Feb. 14. Tickets are \$20 plus your chance to see talent on the rise and some day you may be able to say, "I remember them when." Their album was just released in June last year. It is called "It's Time" and can be bought after the show or from their website www.brandontomasello.com.